

Fairfax Chamber of Commerce's Technology Committee since its inception in 1995, organizing the Chamber's Technology Day event geared toward improving understanding and efficiency in the technology arena.

Utilizing his professional expertise to benefit his community, Mr. de Lorenzi served on the Fairfax City/George Mason University Technology Committee and its Business/Training and Schools subcommittees, as well as the Fairfax County Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee. His volunteer efforts were recognized when the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce honored him with its 1998 Volunteer of the Year award. Last night, April 17, 2002, Bobbie Kilbert, President of the Northern Virginia Technology Council, offered a moving tribute to Mr. de Lorenzi recognizing his many contributions to Northern Virginia's high-tech community and indeed the community at large.

In October 2000, Mr. de Lorenzi again set out to make the Washington metropolitan area, and the nation, a better place by serving as chairman of the first annual Washington Conference on Telework/Telework America TM Day. This conference focused on the development and promotion of telework in the Washington metropolitan area, attempting to provide a solution to many of the difficult issues facing this region, including traffic congestion, work-life balance, recruitment and retention, and air quality—all at an affordable cost. The conference's attendees included elected and appointed representatives of Federal and local governments and managers from both private and public sectors of the entire Washington metropolitan area.

The nation's trust and admiration was revealed as Mr. de Lorenzi was presented by our President, George W. Bush, with the opportunity to serve as the Chief Technology Consultant to the Bush-Cheney Presidential Transition Team. The President discovered what Northern Virginians have long known: Bob was a man you wanted on your side.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Bob de Lorenzi, and as a representative of the residents of the 11th District of Virginia, I know he will be missed. I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Bob de Lorenzi.

TRIBUTE TO MERRILL CONNALLY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in tribute of a great Texan, a great American and a dear friend and colleague—the late Judge Merrill Lee Connally of Floresville, Texas—who passed away at the age of 80 on September 4, 2001. Over the course of his life he had been a rancher, an oilman, a radio station operator, a judge, and a soldier who served his country with distinction in the South Pacific during World War II.

Merrill grew up on his family's ranch west of Floresville where he was born as the sixth child of John Bowden Connally Sr. and Lela

Wright Connally on April 9, 1921. After attending Floresville High School, he went on to Texas A&M University in 1941 as a member of the Corps of Cadets. In January 1942, shortly after entering college, he left to enlist in the United States Marine Corps where he rose to the rank of Captain serving in the South Pacific. During the fight for Bougainville, Merrill earned two Purple Hearts.

Merrill served until 1945, after which he returned to Floresville to help manage the Connally family ranch. He continued with the ranch the rest of his life, but he had other ventures, as well. Along with 10 other fellow veterans, Mr. Connally organized and operated radio station KVET in Austin, Texas. In addition to the radio station, he had other business venture including Connally Agricultural Services, Connally Fuels, and Connally Minerals. He was also a 20 year board member of the Republic Bank of Austin.

Like all of the Connally family, Merrill served his country well by staying active in local, state and national politics. From 1847–1950, he was Wilson County Commissioner—he held the position again from 1955–1959. In both 1956 and 1960 Merrill served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. He also helped his brother run for governor, serving as his campaign coordinator in both 1962 and 1964.

Merrill served on the Floresville chamber of Commerce, Wilson County Farm Bureau, Floresville Lions Club, South Texas County Judges' Association, Southwest Cattle Raisers' Association, and American Quarter Horse Association, and was a past president of the Floresville Peanut Festival Association. In addition, he served for many years on the board of directors of the Wilson Memorial Hospital, a hospital that he had played an instrumental part in founding.

Later in life, Mr. Connally began a hobby acting. He played the role of Davy Crockett in "Alamo—The Price of Freedom" and also made appearances in Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Sugarcorn Express."

Most importantly, though, Merrill will be remembered a true American hero and devoted family man. Just this year he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his loving wife Mary Catherine Howard. He was father to two and a grandfather to four.

He will be remembered by his family, friends and former colleague as a true Texas who served his state and country well. He will be remembered for his mild-mannered ways and devotion to the people of Texas. He leaves a legacy of service kindness. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the life of a great Texan and true American hero—Merrill Lee Connally.

HONORING VITO CHIESA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vito Chiesa on the occasion of the completion of his term as president of the

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau. Mr. Chiesa has served as president for the past two years, from April 2000 to 2002, and served as a board member representing the Eastside Region for two years prior to his presidency.

Vito is a peach, almond, and walnut farmer who was born and raised in Stanislaus County and has farmed all his life. He is currently the manager of Chiesa Ranch and previously owned Agriculture Land Management Co., Vito Chiesa Farms. Mr. Chiesa opens his farm to visitors to help them better understand the farming industry.

In 1999, Vito received the Outstanding Young Farmer Achievement Award. The Stanislaus County Farm Bureau has also honored him with the Outstanding Achievement Award. Mr. Chiesa has been an outstanding county farm bureau president and has demonstrated his leadership abilities during negotiations involving sensitive issues affecting the farming community. He has exhibited an impressive ability to bring diverse interests and opinions together to work toward a common goal.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vito Chiesa at the end of his term as Stanislaus County Farm Bureau President. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Chiesa for his contributions to the agriculture and the community and in wishing him many more years of continued success.

HONORING THE NATIONAL LAW CENTER FOR INTER-AMERICAN FREE TRADE IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2001

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an organization that recently marked its 10th anniversary of working to reduce the legal barriers to trade among nations in our hemisphere. The organization I proudly speak of is the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade, located in Tucson, Arizona.

The organization was created by Dr. Boris Kozolchik, a law professor at the University of Arizona and expert on free trade on April 1, 1992. Its purpose was to address and resolve the practical and legal obstacles that NAFTA would bring, as well as to develop the legal infrastructure necessary to facilitate the movement of goods, services and investment capital in the Western Hemisphere.

The Center works closely with the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona as an educational and research institution in such areas as banking, commercial credit, customs, electronic commerce, environment, intellectual property, labor and transportation.

Free trade leads to economic well-being, enhances political stability, and promotes public accountability and the rule of law among the nations in our hemisphere, making the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade an important organization to our state and country. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this outstanding institution.